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same time would leave the rest of the family (generally a large one) in destitute circumstances, necessitating the assistance of the state. I think that one of the **greatest** parts of probation work is for the officer to instill in the heads of such families a proper sense of duty to their children and the state. This oftentimes is a long, tedious process and in a great many cases can never be done. But when it is accomplished, it can be pointed to with pride and a satisfaction of knowing that another family has been pulled through a crisis and is still together. There are times when it looks as if all of the work is to go for nothing and we must admit failure. Very often at this time the taking of one or more of the children out of the home, either permanently or temporarily, has just the proper effect and causes an awakening and readjustment in the family scheme of living which enables us to place the children back in the home after a reasonable length of time and be sure that they will be supervised properly. This works very well where the parent cares for the child, but as is often the case, they would gladly relinquish their responsibility to someone else; it sometimes has a salutary effect to make them pay for the support of the child in some institution or some boarding house. We have tried this in the District of Columbia in cases where the parents could afford to pay and have found that after a time they are willing to take the children back home and properly care for them, even though it is under compulsion. Fortunately we can enforce this kind of an order by sending the parent to the workhouse under the non-support act, should he fail to pay as ordered. An objection might be made to locking the parent up, but as the children, in such cases, have already been taken out of the home, it is not working any hardship on the family.

By far the hardest class to work with are the children that come from good homes where there is ample income and good influence, but where the parents, because of their desire to have the child go the right way, are too rigid in their discipline, and do not put sufficient trust in the child or, they trust *absolutely* in the child, believing that it can do no wrong, and enforce no discipline whatever. Either very often leads to deception on the part of the child and ultimately to delinquency. The work for the probation officer in such cases is much harder than in the second class because we have a much more intelligent and sometimes resentful parent to deal with. I think it is much easier to convince a parent that they have been too lenient in their discipline than that they have been too strict. But if the officer can win the respect and the confidence of the parent and can make him see that he is really interested, very often the parent is willing to take suggestions and straighten out the trouble.

To sum up briefly, the two most effective ways of reaching the adult responsible for the delinquent and neglected child is either through an adequate contributory law, carrying a fine or imprisonment or both, or by persuasion and probably force of various kinds on the part of the probation officer. The degree of success will depend upon the "drasticness" of the contributory law and the persuasive powers of the officer.—*B. Howard Clark*, Chief Probation Officer, Washington, D. C.

PENOLOGY.

Joseph Matthew Sullivan, Boston, Massachusetts.

Irish Prison Conditions.—The inquest into the death of Thomas Ashe was concluded by the return of a verdict which has stirred Ireland profoundly. The judgment of the jury, as printed in the *Weekly Freeman* and the *Irish Weekly Independent*, reads:

"We find that the deceased, Thos. Ashe, according to the medical evidence of Prof. McWeeney, Sir Arthur Chance, and Sir Thomas Myles, died of heart failure and congestion of the lungs on the 25th Sept., and that it was caused by the punishment of taking away from his cell the bed, bedding, and boots and left to lie on the cold floor for fifty hours, and then subjected to forcible feeding in his weak condition after a hunger strike of five or six days. We censure the Castle authorities for not acting more promptly, especially when the grave condition of the deceased and other prisoners was brought under their notice on the previous Saturday by the Lord Mayor and Sir John Irwin.

"That the hunger strike was adopted against the inhuman punishment inflicted and as a protest against their being treated as criminals and demanding to be treated as political prisoners in the first division.

"We condemn forcible or mechanical feeding as an inhuman and dangerous operation, and it should be discontinued.

"That the assistant doctor called in, having no previous practice in such operations, administered unskilfully forcible feeding.

"That the taking away of the deceased's bed, bedding and boots was an unfeeling and barbarous act, and we censure the Deputy-Governor for violating the prison rules and inflicting punishment which he had no power to do; but we infer he was acting under instructions from the Prisons Board at the Castle, which refused to give evidence and documents asked for."

Shortly after the publication of this verdict Mr. Duke, the Chief Secretary, was interpellated in the House of Commons, but as he refused to answer a pertinent question, the process was short and unsatisfactory. Incidents of this kind and numerous arrests of Irishmen on trivial charges have given an impetus to Sinn Fein. De Valera is as active as ever. He is attended by throngs of people who apparently look to him for relief from untoward conditions.—(America.)

Herein lies one of the strongest arguments imaginable against the "classification of prisoners." In Great Britain prisoners are sentenced to imprisonment in the first and second division; the first division carries with it imprisonment without hard labor; the second division includes hard labor. Political prisoners object to their being treated as common felons, hence hunger strikes, etc. I have never been able to find out on what grounds a judge determines that a prisoner shall serve in the first or second division. He makes favorites at the outset; this destroys all discipline in any prison, and makes the lot of prison officials unbearable and discipline a hollow mockery. Passing sentence is a judicial act which does not end with the mere record of the sentence on the court docket, and handing a "mittimus" to the committing official to transport the prisoner to the place of confinement. The prisons contain the mistakes of courts, police, lawyers, etc., just as the cemetery contains the blunders and mistakes of the medical fraternity. In like manner the asylums contain the mistakes, blunders, erroneous findings, and incorrect conclusions of the alienists. Of course imprisonment without labor means idleness; idleness breeds discontent and trouble; the courts seem to forget that much of the troubles of humanity originate many years preceding sentence, and then they expect prison officials to make saints out of rascals, and reform humanity where the church, home, and police have failed. American prison reformers who are always seeing perfections in foreign prisons, and laxity and imperfections at home will do well to pause and consider the above. In my foreign

travels I never saw such great perfection as our reformers at home seemed to have found in their foreign travels; prisons are blamed at times when the fault is in human nature with all its imperfections; the prison will continue to exist so long as wolfish ignorance preys upon its helpless neighbor; we must bear in mind that the human race contains beasts just as wild as lions and tigers which are to be found in the jungles of Africa. Incompetency and ignorance are the causes of many of our human errors; ignorance intrusted with power causes many abuses; but the prisons will bear a satisfactory scrutiny and comparison with most of our schoolhouses; in fact many of the prison problems of today can be traced back to the schoolhouse where the unrestrained, undisciplined youth was not corrected at the proper time but was allowed to run riot until he got beyond all legitimate control.—*Joseph Matthew Sullivan*, Boston, Massachusetts.

POLICE.

Annual Report of St. Louis Police Department.—The Annual Report of the St. Louis Police Department for 1917 is devoted to the presentation of routine police statistics and personnel data, which is of little value to students, executives or the general public.

The St. Louis Department has a Bureau of Efficiency consisting of two captains, a lieutenant and a patrolman, assigned monthly by the Chief of Police, which exercises the functions of a civil service commission in conducting examinations for appointment and promotion, which has charge of the service instruction and the service records of the members of the uniformed force and which investigates all complaints against police officers, acting as a court-martial in the case of minor offenses and preferring charges for trial before the police board in more serious cases.

The Department also publishes a weekly Police Journal which is devoted not only to the publication of formal orders and newly enacted statutes and ordinances but also to other material tending to increase the working efficiency or the personal welfare of the members of the police force.

LEONHARD FELIX FULD, *New York City*.

Legal Training for Police Officers.—"Case and Comment," the Lawyer's Magazine, calls attention in a recent number [Volume XXIV, No. 5, page 387, October, 1917] to the need for the legal training of police officers. After mentioning the efforts recently made by Harvard, Columbia, Northwestern University and the University of California to meet this need, it says that this legal training cannot be given to policemen by police officials whose knowledge of the law is almost wholly empirical, nor can it be given to them best by college professors whose knowledge of police work is wholly theoretical.

This instruction should be given to them by men of broad university culture and special training in law and in political science. It should be given to them by men who have had in addition, practical experience in police work. It should be given to them without fee, charge or expense to any police officer, since the benefit to the service resulting from this legal training of police officers will be immeasurably greater than the incidental benefit to the police officer in enabling him to secure promotion and finally, if practicable, this training should be given to police officers without expense to the city.

All of these conditions can be successfully met by encouraging able, well-educated, ambitious, young police magistrates to undertake this source of instruction of policemen in addition to the routine duties of a magistrate. In most cities the official duties of a police magistrate do not occupy his whole time